SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5250**

		3	4				8	2
		7			5	1		
					7		6	3
		1						8
2	4				8	6	1	
	7							
8	3	4	1				2	
	1		5				4	
	2	6				8		

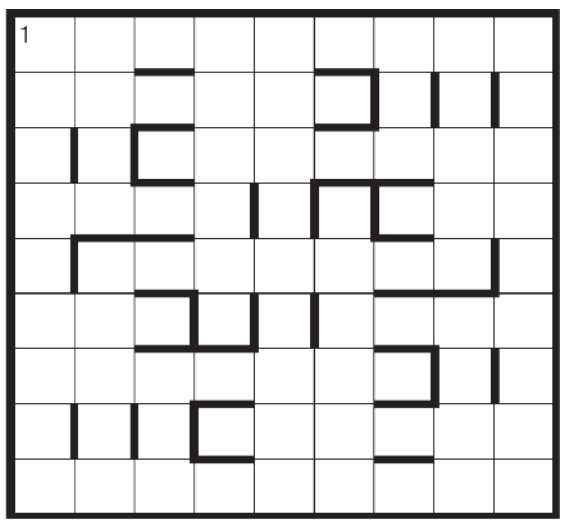
TRICKY **B5250**

			5			8		1
							2	
2	3							9
	9			7				6
					1	3	9	8
1	6		4		3			
7			1					2
		4	8		9		3	

To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD



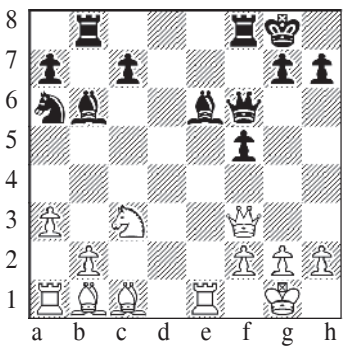
ACROSS

1 Very small pieces (9)
Rats glint (anag.) (9)
Employ (3)
Not level (6)
Retailed (4)
Warning devices (6)
Plant part (4)
Egg cells (3)
Chief city (7)
Typical (7)
Perform again (2-5)

DOWN

1 Travel documents (9)
Permit (3)
Package (6)
Delete (5)
Choosing (9)
Significant (9)
_ Green, French actress (3)
As well as (4)
Portent (4)
Ward off (5)
Exchanged (6)

CHESS



WHITE WINS A PIECE

HINT: JUST TAKE IT.

Solution: 1. Rxe6! (wins a bishop). If ... Qxe6, 2. Ba2! winning the queen [Satholm-Dalman '99].

TARGET

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 13;

Very good 20;

Excellent 26 (or more).

Solution tomorrow.

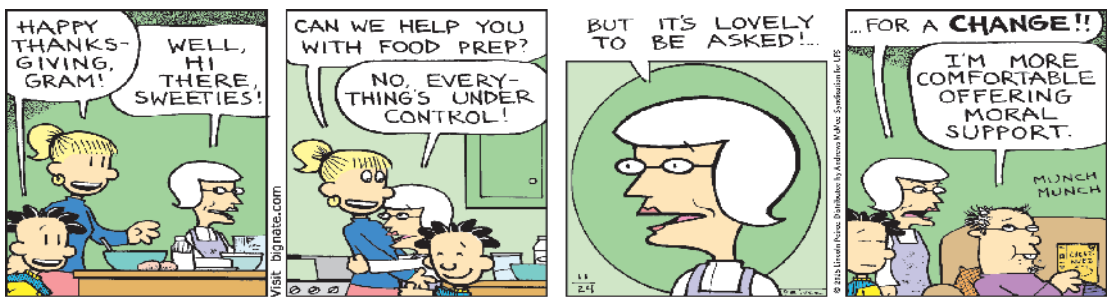
SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

PETRIFIED

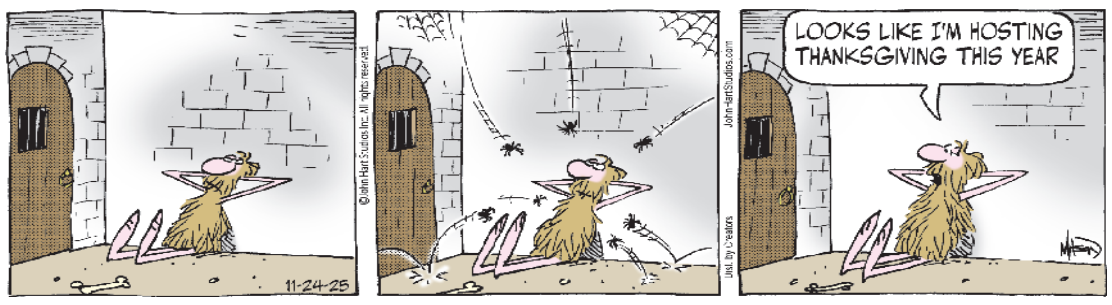
defer defier deft drift feed fete feted fetid fire fired free freed fret fried frit PETRIFIED reef refit reified rife rift rifted tref trifid

THE METRO FUNNIES

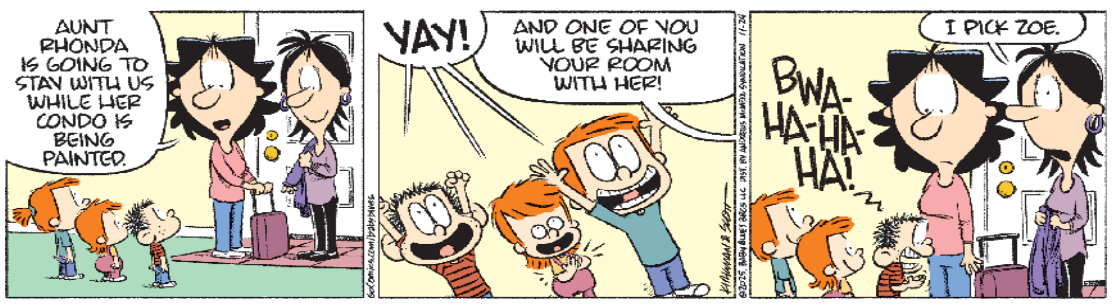
BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE


HAPPY THANKS-GIVING, GRAM!
WELL, HI THERE, SWEETIES!
CAN WE HELP YOU WITH FOOD PREP?
NO, EVERY-THING'S UNDER CONTROL!
BUT IT'S LOVELY TO BE ASKED!...
...FOR A CHANGE!!
I'M MORE COMFORTABLE OFFERING MORAL SUPPORT.
MUNCH MUNCH
Visit bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



BABY BLUES


AUNT RHONDA IS GOING TO STAY WITH US WHILE HER CONDO IS BEING PAINTED.
YAY!
AND ONE OF YOU WILL BE SHARING YOUR ROOM WITH HER!
I PICK ZOE.
BWA-HA-HA-HA!

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	05:37pm	05:04pm	05:43pm	05:02pm	05:08pm	05:38pm
Sunrise	06:49am	06:45am	06:54am	06:36am	06:52am	07:01am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow				Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook		Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	10	25	Sunny	71	9	25	Sunny		9	24	Sunny
Hyderabad	13	29	Sunny	48	13	29	Sunny		13	29	Sunny
Islamabad	8	23	Sunny	62	8	22	Sunny		8	22	Sunny
Lahore	10	24	Mainly Sunny	74	9	24	Sunny		9	23	Sunny
Multan	10	26	Sunny	70	10	25	Sunny		9	25	Sunny
Peshawar	7	22	Sunny	67	7	22	Sunny		7	20	Sunny
Quetta	2	17	Sunny	29	2	17	Sunny		2	17	Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD
VILLAINY

(VILLAINY: VIL-uh-nee: Depravity; the state of being corrupt, evil or perverted.)

Average mark 10 words
Time limit 25 minutes

Can you find 18 or more words in VILLAINY?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD — GOLDSMITH

ghost	list	silo	solid	most
gild	litho	silt	stolid	moth
gilt	lost	slid	midst	idol
gist	lots	slight	might	this
glim	digs	slim	mild	togs
glom	dish	slit	miso	toil
gold	dolt	slog	mist	told
gosh	doltish	slot	modish	
oldish	shim	sloth	moil	
omit	shod	smith	moist	
lido	shot	smog	mold	
light	sigh	soil	molt	
limo	sight	sold	mosh	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

SATURDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

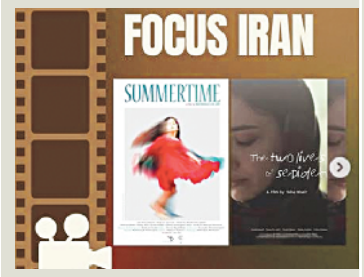
1 Spaceship
7 Alto
8 Sheer
10 Ado
11 Ironed
13 Satellite
14 Otters
16 Ice
18 Error
19 Poke
20 Dismissed.

DOWN

1 Satisfied
2 Plural
3 Coin
4 Shy
5 Heavier
6 Processed
8 Shelter
9 Mothers
12 Strike
15 Taps
17 Tom.

METRO EVENTS

FILM SCREENING



As part of the World Culture Festival, two Iranian films are screened at Auditorium 2, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 4pm.

MUSIC

A music performance by South Korean artist Namu is at Auditorium 1, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 8pm.

CELEBRATION

Sham Shandar, a night full of colours, culture and celebration, organised by the IBA Dramatics Society at OBS Courtyard, at 6pm.

RESEARCH

6th Research Project Showcase 2025, is organised by the Jinnah University for Women, at its Zubaida Exhibition Hall, at 11am.

INAUGURATION

Inauguration ceremony of the website of library of Government Degree Science and Commerce College Lyari, at 11:30am.

ART

Live mural art performances by artists from France and Pakistan at Arts Council of Pakistan as part of Cultural Festival.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

**** This is a positive day for you! You're high-viz, which means people notice you more than usual. This is excellent, because your dealings with others, especially authority figures, will be efficient and optimistic. This means you're happy! Tonight: You're noticed.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

**** Do something different today. Shake things up a little. Travel or be a tourist in your own city. At least visit a store or restaurant you've never been to before. Discussions with others will be optimistic and upbeat. Listen to the advice of someone older or more experienced. Tonight: Explore!

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

*** This is the perfect day to tackle loose ends and random details with paperwork related to taxes, debt, insurance matters, inheritances or wills. (This stuff doesn't go away on its own.) Someone in authority might help you or advise you. Your finances are favored today. Tonight: Check your finances.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

**** This is a great day to schmooze, especially with partners, spouses and close friends. You'll also enjoy talking to members of the general public. Discussions about politics, religion and race might be serious; however, the overall tone today is happy and upbeat! Tonight: Cooperate.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

*** It's a productive day for you. Do what you can to get better organized, especially with issues related to finances, taxes and debt. Listen to someone else's advice if it is offered. Don't overlook details, which you might be tempted to do. This ain't the day for slapdash. Tonight: Get organized.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

**** It's Monday and you're in a playful mood! Play hooky if you can. Take a long lunch. Having said that, you can accomplish a lot today if you put your mind to it. Although pleasure is your number one priority, a serious discussion with someone older might help you. Tonight: Socialize.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

*** Family discussions will go well today, especially if they deal with practical matters and issues that will help solidify your home base. Meanwhile, you make a wonderful impression on authority figures, parents and bosses. They see you as successful! Tonight: Rest.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

**** Your enthusiasm and energy will be contagious today, which is why everyone wants to see your face. Not only will you be charming and entertaining, you might have excellent and practical advice to share with someone. It's a good day for planning. Tonight: Discussions.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

**** This is a solid money day for you. You might see ways to boost your earnings. You also might do something to stabilize your home scene. You might help an older family member. You also might buy something a bit extravagant that pleases you. Ka-ching! Tonight: Take care of your belongings.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

**** Today you feel benevolent toward others, which is why you will be generous and helpful if you have an opportunity to do so. Personally, you have a strong drive for freedom and a desire to do exactly what you want to do. You will also be sensible and thrifty. (You're a good saver.) Tonight: You're in charge.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

*** Although this is a popular time for you, today you're happy to start this week on a quiet note. You might choose to stay at home or work alone or behind the scenes. You'll appreciate some peace and quiet. (This is a good idea. Get your act together before you take it on the road.) Tonight: Enjoy peace and quiet.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

**** You make a great impression on everyone, which is why this is a popular day for you. You might reignite a romance that slipped through your fingers in the past, especially with someone different or from another culture. Enjoy socializing and having good times! Tonight: Be friendly with others.

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q 4 3
♥ K Q 5
♦ A K 9 2
♣ 7 4

WEST
♠ 10 9 8
♥ J 10 7 4 3
♦ J 6 5
♣ A 2

EAST
♠ J 6
♥ A 9
♦ Q 10
♣ Q J 10 9 6 5 3

SOUTH
♠ K 7 5 2
♥ 8 6 2
♦ 8 7 4 3
♣ K 8

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣*	3 ♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠			

*two or more clubs

Opening lead -- ace of clubs.

This deal occurred in the final of the 2025 Vanderbilt Teams. South was Marty Fleischer, captain of the winning team.

Fleischer was off to a good start when West led the ace of clubs, the suit East had preempted in. When East played the club queen on the ace, West shifted to a low heart, dummy's queen losing to East's ace. East then returned the nine of hearts to dummy's king.

Despite the helpful opening club lead, it appeared that South was still certain to lose a heart and a diamond for down one. But Fleischer found the way to make one of the losers disappear, and there was nothing the defenders could do about it.

After winning the heart return, declarer drew the opposing trumps, cashed the diamond ace, crossed to the king of clubs and led a diamond. When West followed low, Fleischer played the nine, losing to East's queen. Since East had no more diamonds or hearts, he had to return a club, allowing South to discard a heart from one hand while ruffing in the other, and the contract was home.

Note that it would not have helped either defender to play their diamonds any differently, as declarer could counter any move they made in an attempt to mislead him.

At the other table, North wound up as declarer in four spades and finished down two after West led the club queen, resulting in a 13-IMP gain for the Fleischer team.

Tomorrow: Plan ahead.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5249

7	3	9	1	2	4	8	6	5
6	1	2	5	8	9	4	3	7
4	5	8	3	7	6	9	1	2
3	9	5	2	6	7	1	8	4
2	6	4	8	5	1	3	7	9
8	7	1	9	4	3	5	2	6
9	2	7	4	1	8	6	5	3
5	8	3	6	9	2	7	4	1
1	4	6	7	3	5	2	9	8

Tricky — B5249

7	3	4	2	5	9	1	6	8
8	6	1	7	3	4	5	9	2
5	9	2	1	6	8	3	7	4
4	1	7	8	2	3	6	5	9
3	8	5	6	9	7	2	4	1
9	2	6	4	1	5	8	3	7
1	5	9	3	7	2	4	8	6
6	7	8	5	4	1	9	2	3
2	4	3	9	8	6	7	1	5